



D.C. Commission for Women
30 Years of Service

Christina Begoña Martin-Firvida

Ms. Martin-Firvida serves as senior counsel at the National Women's Law Center which is dedicated to making law & public policies work for women and girls in areas of education, employment, economic security & health.

Natalie Cofield

Natalie Cofield serves as the Director of Industry & Business Development for the Washington, DC Economic Partnership. She is responsible for managing the BusinessPremier Program the District's business retention and expansion initiative, publishing the Doing Business in DC Guide Book, and conducting industry research and economic strategy development. Ms. Cofield chairs the Public Affairs Committee.

Jennifer P. Grayson

Ms. Grayson joined Legal Momentum in June 2003 as policy analyst in Washington DC focusing on Family Initiative & Early Child Education and Childcare. She has held policy positions at various Washington non-profits including: OMB Watch, United Jewish Communities and the American Public Human Services Association.

Cynthia E. Harrison, Ph.D.

Dr. Harrison is an associate professor of History, Women's Studies & Public Policy at the George Washington University. Her writings focus on women and public policy, e.g. the current constitutional status of women, the long term impact of the women's movement, the need to resolve the issue of child care and women's work, and the policy goals of feminist organizations concerning poor women. She serves as Co-Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee.

Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness

Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness, author, college administrator, elected official, lawyer, columnist, TV Talk Show Host, human rights activist, businesswoman, is Pastor of Christ Our Redeemer AME Church and proud mother of Ali Holness, Spelman College graduate May 2009. Dr. Anderson Holness is the Commission's liaison to the faith-based community.

Christina N. Juliano

Ms. Juliano is a public research associate at the Truth for American's Health, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community & working to make disease prevention a national priority. Ms. Juliano serves on the Public Safety Committee.

Reta Jo Lewis, Esq., Chair

Reta Jo Lewis has more than two decades of experience in public policy, government affairs, politics and law. Reta's practice focuses on providing government relations and strategic counsel to corporations, trade associations, individuals and non-profit organizations before Congress, the White House, regulatory agencies and municipal governments. More specifically, Reta has been involved in legislative, program, and policy developments related to the inclusion of minority and women-owned firms in the financial services industry during the last 15 years. Reta also specializes in working with governors, mayors, county executives, their senior staff, as well as with state and local legislators across the country.

Stacey R. Long, Esq., Co-Chair

Ms. Long is the Director of Government and Strategic Partner Relations, Bread for the City, a private, non-profit organization that provides vulnerable residents of Washington DC with comprehensive services: food, clothing, medical care, legal and social services. She co-chairs the



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Lisa M. Maatz

She is currently the Director for Policy and Government Relations at the American Association of University Women, an organization which advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Mioshi Moses, Esq.

Ms. Moses has extensive experience in organizational development and working with nonprofit entities. Prior to joining Symphonic Strategies, Ms. Moses served as Executive Director of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., a national nonprofit focusing on youth leadership and development. Ms. Moses also worked to develop plans to elevate Congress' focus on American youth. She is Co-Chair of the Education, Labor and Training and Economic Development Committees.

Shari Elizabeth Miles-Cohen, Ph.D

Other professional experience includes service as interim director of the African American Women's Institute at Howard University and as executive director at the Women's Research and Education Institute in Washington, D.C. Dr. Miles-Cohen received her PhD in 1997 from Howard University. A longtime community leader and activist, Dr. Miles-Cohen has directed a crisis intervention service for women and been a mentor to women and girls. She is Co-Chair of the International Women's Committee.

Leahseneth "Lacey" O'Neal

A well known sports figure, assumed the duties of Country Director in the Gambia. She was a two-time member of the US Olympic Track and Field team in 1964 & 1972. In addition to her career as a professional athlete, she has served as Program Director for the Unions for Youth Camp, a color commentator for CBS Sports and the Program Coordinator for the District of Columbia's Department of Recreation. She is Co-Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Gina Paige

Ms. Paige is the President of African Ancestry and brings a wealth of diverse management and entrepreneurial experience to her role. Ms. Paige was the founder and president of GPG Strategic Resources, a boutique New York consulting firm specializing in strategy development, new product development and project management. Ms. Paige holds a degree in Economics from Stanford University and an MBA from the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business and is co-chair of the Commission's International Committee.

Vicki A. Saporta

Ms. Saporta is the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Abortion Federation (NAF). Under her direction, the NAF has played a critical role in promoting and preserving women's access to safe, legal abortion care. Major media outlets, federal & state legislators, national & international organizations frequently call on Saporta for her expertise. She has testified before the US Congress and State Legislatures and frequently lectures at conferences and symposiums.

Winona Lake Scott

Ms. Scott works for the Office on Civil Rights for the US Department of Agriculture. Ms. Scott is a Board Member at the Washington Metropolitan Scholars, a non-profit organization funded by foundations and companies. It supports and enables African American high school students from the metropolitan area to enter and successfully complete their undergraduate education.

Cherita F. Whiting

Ms. Whiting works at the American Institutes for Research and is Chair of the 4B ANC and ANC Commissioner for 4B08. Her commitment to the community includes advocating for the youth of the District of Columbia. Ms. Whiting is also the President of the Parents United for DC Public Schools, whose mission is to empower parents and the community with information and advocacy skills to transform DC public schools to ensure educational success for all children. Ms. Whiting is the Co-Chair of the Education, Labor and Training Committee and the Public Safety Committee of the Commission. She has hosted and participated in numerous domestic violence forums across the city.



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DC Commission for Women Committees

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members of the Commission, one of whom shall serve as Chairperson. They shall be appointed by the Commission Chairperson, with approval of the Commission. The nominating Committee shall:

- a. Propose to the Commission May recommendations for the offices of Vice Chairperson and Secretary. They shall be elected annually by the Commission in June to one-year terms.
- b. Plan and conduct orientation meetings for prospective nominees and propose to the Commission in February, lists of nominees from among persons who have expressed interest in becoming a commissioner to be recommended to the Mayor to fill vacancies on the Commission in accordance with criteria set forth in D.C. Law 2-109; and
- c. Propose to the Commission candidate (s), (more than one and not more than two), to be considered for Mayoral appointment to the position of Commission Chairperson. The Chairperson is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Mayor in accordance with D.C. Law 2-109.

Health and Human Services Committee: The Health and Human Services Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Commission who has been nominated by the Chairperson of the Commission and approved by the Commission. The Health and Human Services Committee shall:

- a. Identify and explore major health and human issues that impact upon women and families on the job and in the home.
- b. Develop and implement, with staff support, programs and projects that will educate District women and families about the health and human issues that impact upon their lives.

Legislative Initiatives Committee: The Legislative Initiatives Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Commission who has been nominated by the chairperson of the Commission and approved by the Commission. The Legislative Initiatives Committee shall:

- a. Review, monitor and propose legislation which addresses the issues relating to women and their families in the District of Columbia.
- b. Prepare and present testimony before the D.C. City Council, conduct community educational forums, legislative briefings and encourage legislative liaison networking.

Education, Labor and Training Committee: The Education, Labor and Training Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Commission who has been nominated by the chairperson of the Commission and approved by the Commission. The Education, Labor and Training Committee shall:

- a. Review and evaluate education, labor and training issues facing working women and their families.
- b. Research and develop resource information regarding educational, employment and training opportunities for women.
- c. Research and develop resource information regarding the opportunities available to women business owners, entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs.

Public Safety Committee: The Public Safety Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Commission who has been nominated by the chairperson of the Commission and approved by the Commission. The Public Safety Committee shall:

- a. Research and evaluate issues relating to public safety affecting women, girls and their families.
- b. Research and evaluate issues related to incarcerated, ex-offender women, girls and their families and make recommendations for addressing the concerns of women who are in the Correctional System.



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Public Affairs Committee: The Public Affairs Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Commission who has been nominated by the chairperson of the Commission and approved by the Commission. The Public Affairs/Community Education Committee shall:

- a. Develop, in concert with the other standing committees, a Public Affairs plan for the Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives.
- b. Assist the staff in implementing the Public Affairs plan for the Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives.

International Affairs Committee: The International Affairs Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Commission who has been nominated by the chairperson of the Commission and approved by the Commission. The International Committee shall:

- a. Research and evaluate issues related to the well being of women, girls and their families in the District of Columbia's international community.
- b. Serve as public liaisons to greet international heads of state and global women's leaders committed to female empowerment in the District of Columbia and abroad.
- c. Assist the Executive Director in managing projects targeted at engaging the District's international community in conjunction with the constituent services offices such as the Office on Latino Affairs, the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, and the Office on African Affairs.

Economic Development Committee: The Women's Economic Development Committee addresses the economic development issues of female entrepreneurs including small business growth, access to local government procurement markets, trade, access to capital and job creation. Its objectives are:

- a. Dramatically increase the number, magnitude and success rate of women-owned businesses in the District of Columbia
- b. Dramatically increase contracting and procurement dollars spent with minority-owned and women-owned businesses; and
- c. Facilitate greater involvement of minority-owned and women-owned businesses in identified growth sectors of the City's economy (e.g. tourism, technology, real estate development).